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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OMAHA/VALLEY NE
800 AM CDT TUE MAR 30 2004

...THIS IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA AND NEBRASKA...

MARCH 29TH THROUGH APRIL 2ND IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA AND NEBRASKA. A DIFFERENT SEVERE WEATHER TOPIC WILL BE PRESENTED EACH DAY.

TODAY/S TOPIC IS FLOODING...

THE TWO KEY AND SIMPLE ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO FLASH FLOODING ARE RAINFALL INTENSITY AND DURATION. TOPOGRAPHY...SOIL CONDITIONS AND GROUND COVER ALSO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES. FLASH FLOODS CAN TEAR OUT TREES...DESTROY BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES AND FLOAT CARS AWAY. MOST FLASH FLOODS IN IOWA AND NEBRASKA ARE CAUSED BY SLOW MOVING THUNDERSTORMS...OR STORMS THAT MOVE REPEATEDLY OVER THE SAME AREA. FLOATING DEBRIS OR ICE CAN ALSO ACCUMULATE AT A NATURAL OR MAN-MADE OBSTRUCTION AND RESTRICT THE FLOW OF WATER. WATER HELD BACK CAN CAUSE MORE FLOODING UPSTREAM. URBANIZATION ALSO INCREASES RUNOFF BY 2 TO 6 TIMES OVER WHAT WOULD OCCUR ON NATURAL TERRAIN.

YOU CAN BE PREPARED WELL BEFORE FLOODING BEGINS BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS.

- * KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK AND ELEVATION. IF YOUR LOCAL STREAMS OR RIVERS FLOOD EASILY...BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY. KNOW YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES.
- * STORE DRINKING WATER IN CASE WATER SERVICE IS INTERRUPTED.
- * KEEP A STOCK OF FOOD THAT REQUIRES LITTLE COOKING AND NO REFRIGERATION IN CASE POWER FAILS.
- * KEEP FIRST AID SUPPLIES ON HAND.
- * KEEP A NOAA WEATHER RADIO...BATTERY POWERED PORTABLE RADIO... EMERGENCY COOKING EQUIPMENT AND FLASHLIGHTS IN WORKING ORDER.
- * INSTALL CHECK VALVES IN SEWER TRAPS TO PREVENT FLOOD WATER FROM BACKING UP INTO THE DRAINS OF YOUR HOME

IT MAY ALSO BE A GOOD IDEA TO LOOK INTO FLOOD INSURANCE. THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM IS A FEDERAL PROGRAM ENABLING PROPERTY OWNERS IN PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES TO PURCHASE INSURANCE PROTECTION AGAINST LOSSES FROM FLOODING. THIS INSURANCE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AN INSURANCE ALTERNATIVE TO DISASTER ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO MEET THE ESCALATING COSTS OF REPAIRING DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS AND THEIR CONTENTS CAUSED BY FLOODS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ONLINE GO TO WWW.FLOODALERT.FEMA.GOV.

WHEN A FLASH FLOOD WARNING IS ISSUED OR YOU ARE IMMEDIATELY THREATENED BY RISING WATER. QUICK ACTION IN THESE SITUATIONS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

- * GET OUT OF AREAS SUBJECT TO FLOODING. THIS INCLUDES DIPS...LOW SPOTS...WASHES...CULVERTS.
- * NEVER LET CHILDREN PLAY IN OR AROUND HIGH WATER...STORM DRAINS OR VIADUCTS.
- * AVOID ALREADY FLOODED AND HIGH VELOCITY WATER FLOW AREAS. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS FLOWING STREAMS.
- * IF DRIVING...BE AWARE THAT THE ROAD BED MAY NOT BE INTACT UNDER FLOOD WATERS. TURN AROUND AND GO ANOTHER WAY. NEVER DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED ROADWAYS. NEARLY HALF OF ALL FLASH FLOOD FATALITIES OCCUR IN AN AUTOMOBILE. IF THE VEHICLE STALLS...LEAVE IT IMMEDIATELY AND SEEK HIGHER GROUND. A WATER DEPTH OF TWO FEET WILL CARRY AWAY MOST AUTOMOBILES.
- * BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT WHEN IT IS HARDER TO RECOGNIZE FLOOD DANGERS.
- * IF ADVISED TO EVACUATE...DO SO IMMEDIATELY. MOVE TO A SAFE AREA BEFORE ACCESS IS CUT OFF BY FLOOD WATER.
- * MONITOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR COMMERCIAL RADIO AND OR TELEVISION STATIONS FOR INFORMATION. THE FLOOD THREAT MAY CONTINUE EVEN AFTER THE RAIN STOPS FALLING.

FOR MORE SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION ON-LINE...GO TO
[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/.](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/)

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